

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IGA-02
INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 /042 W
-----231504Z 051893 /44

R 230908Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3215
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1737

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ET
SUBJ: PHASEDOWN OF MAAG

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1473 DTG 111449Z MAR 77

1. REFTEL SUGGESTED DISIRABILITY OF INFORMING EPMG OF OUR INTENTION TO CUT STRENGTH OF MAAG BY END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR, A MOVE WHICH I CONTINUE BELIEVE SHOULD BE DONE. PENDING DEPT'S DECISION, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BEGIN THINNING OUT MAAG REGARDLESS OF WHEN WE TELL EPMG OF OUR INTENTIONS.

2. IF WE ARE TO REDUCE MAAG'S PRESENT COMPLEMENT OF 46 MILITARY BY HALF OR MORE BY OCT 1, 1977, EXCESS MAAG PERSONNEL WILL NEED TO BE OFF MAAG ROLLS BY THEN. SINCE SOME OF THESE PERSONNEL ARE LESS AND LESS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED ON FULL-TIME BASIS, I SEE NO REASON TO CONTINUE THEM ON HERE TO LAST MINUTE. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND THAT WE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS NOW FOR THEIR TRANSFER, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ONWARD ASSIGNMENTS AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS SCHOOL. IN MAKING RECOMMENDATION, I AM ALSO MOTIVATED BY CURRENT SECURITY

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PROBLEM WHICH UNLIKELY IMPROVE IN NEAR FUTURE. AN EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER DEPARTURE OF PERSONNEL WHO MUST MOVE ANYWAY WILL LESSEN BY THAT MUCH CHANCES OF ONE OF MISSION STAFF BEING CAUGHT UP IN DIFFICULT PROBLEM NOT OF THEIR OWN MAKING.

3. I BELIEVE QUIET MOVEMENT OF SOME PERSONNEL CAN BE

ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT NOTIFYING EPMG WHAT IS GOING ON, IF THAT SHOULD BE NECESSARY, I.E., THOSE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE ORDERS NOW. DEPARTURE OF SOME OF REMAINING PERSONNEL OVER PERIOD OF 60 TO 90 DAYS CAN PROBABLY ALSO BE CAMOUFLAGED, BUT CLEARLY NOT ALL. THUS, BEFORE WE EMBARK ON ACCELERATION OF DEPARTURES OF THOSE WHO DO NOT NOW HAVE ORDERS, I WOULD WANT TO TELL EPMG WHAT WE ARE DOING. CHMAAG IS RECOMMENDING TO USCINCEUR SUCH A PROPOSAL, WITH WHICH I CONCUR, AND A PROPOSED DEPARTURE SCHEDULE. DEPARTURES NEED NOT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND INDEED, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, ARE PROBABLY NOT DESIRABLE FOR MOST PERSONNEL PRIOR TO MAY 15 BECAUSE OF SCHOOL CONSIDERATIONS.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT WOULD DISCUSS THIS SUGGESTION WITH DOD, AND WOULD LET US KNOW REACTION. TIENKEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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